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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,288	02/15/2006	Toshihiro Kobayashi	4495-081	6661
23429 7590 09/15/2008 LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP 1700 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
WRIGHT, INGRID D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2835				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,288

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, TOSHIHIRO

Examiner

INGRID WRIGHT

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5-10 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10, 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/888)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuan et al. US 6920042 B2 (hereinafter: "Yuan") in view of McIlwraith US 5020866, further in view of Black, Jr. et al. US 3751127 (hereinafter: "Black").

Claim 2, Yuan teaches a case (30) for computer comprising (1) a first unit case (30), which has a solid shape (i.e. solid shape of case (30)) into which are installed at least a bay for external storage module and a bay for boards, including a motherboard (implied, but not shown by Yuan), (2) a second unit case (40), which has a solid shape into which is installed a bay for power module, and (3) the capability of a third unit case (implied, but not shown by Yuan), which is capable of having a solid shape into which is installed a bay for internal storage module, the frame members **that form outline of each solid shape of the first, second, and third cases** comprise, (a) inner frames (34) that are arranged so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape, but is silent as to the corner parts, inner frames and case units being assembled by corner parts, via screws. McIlwraith teaches corner parts (25) arranged at corners of frames (26,27), to connect the frames. The frames, that bridge the adjacent corner parts, are affixed. The corner parts are affixed by using screws (i.e. implied, threaded bore (36, fig. 3, McIlwraith), so that the case is easy to disassemble. **Outer panels are removably installed by using screws, on six outer planes of the frame members, and forms an outline of rectangular parallelepiped shapes (i.e. enclosure of Yuan**

forms 6 faces and 8 vertices). The outer panels are capable of including a second and an third unit case and are capable of being removably installed by using screws, on respective outer planes of the frame members of a first unit case, a second and a third unit case, so that the case are assembled, and wherein a computer, as a whole, is capable of having a solid parallelepiped shape. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the corner part of McIlwraith, in the invention of Yuan, in order to provide an alternative, but functionally equivalent and time efficient means of assembling the case (30) of Yuan.

As to inner frames and case units being assembled by corner parts, Black teaches inner frames (32) and a plurality of case units (12,14,16,18), assembled by corner parts (30). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the housing assembly of Black, with the case (40) of Yuan, in order to neatly organize the computer system of Yuan, by expanding the compartments of the computer system and providing a modular or sectional computer system.

Claim 3 Yuan in view of McIlwraith & Black, teaches wherein a second and a third unit case (40,12,14,16,18) are capable of being affixed onto a rear of a first unit case (30).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 5-10 & 13 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited by independent claims 5 & 13, and at least in part, because Claim 5 recites: "a pair of left-side and right-side first angle panels and second angle panels that (a) are arranged across two vertically stacked large disk drives and sustain the two drives from their respective sides and affixed to top face of a bay fixing panel that is affixed to an outer frame that forms bottom plane of the case, left and right side third angle panels, wherein a plurality of second angle panels that have the same shape as the aforementioned second angle panels, can be installed consecutively (1) by

being arranged across vertically adjacent two of a plurality of third left-side and right-side third angle panels that have the same shape as the aforementioned third angle panels, and that sustain one by one a plurality of small disk drives that are stacked successively on the aforementioned small disk drive from their respective sides, and (2) by fixing the two adjacent third angle panels," and **Claim 13** recites: "large and small disk drives are assembled, being affixed by using screws to the pair of left-side and right-side panels and the pair of left-side and right-side third angles." The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 5 & 13, are believed to render the claims 5 & 13 and all claims dependent thereupon, patentable over the art of record.

US 6168249 BI to Chien is considered a close reference to the instant application. Chien disclosed corner parts (114,111), a solid shape (i.e. solid shape of frame (1)), fig. 1, Chien), a case (i.e. casing formed by frame (1)) and outer panels (113), but is silent as to right side angle panels.

US to 6049452 to Yuan et al. is considered a close reference to the instant application. You disclosed a first case (10), a second case (18) and a plurality of left and right side angel panels (fig. 1, Yuan), but is silent as to the right and left side angle panels being affixed to the outer frame.

US 5020866 to McIlwraith is considered a pertinent reference to the instant application. McIlwraith disclosed corner parts (25) with screws and outer frames (27,26), but is silent as to right and left side angle panels being affixed to the outer frames, via screws.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2,3,5-10 & 13, filed on 6/16/08, have been fully considered. Applicant's amendment of claim 2 changed the scope of the claim and required a new search. Upon, an updated search, pertinent references were discovered. McIlwraith US 5020866, teaches a corner part (25) assembled to outer panels (26, 27), via screws and Black US 3751127, teaches a plurality of case units (12, 14, 16, 18) assembled to inner frames (32), via corner parts (30). Although, Yuan mentions punching metal, the system of Yuan is capable of being assembled by screws, since screws are well

known in the art and are historically utilized as fasteners. Thus, the remarks regarding the previous Office Action are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to INGRID WRIGHT whose telephone number is (571)272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jayprakash Gandhi can be reached on (571)272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197

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(toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lisa Lea-Edmonds/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2835

/Ingrid Wright/
Examiner, Art Unit 2835